

Obey or Starve!

Hideous Alternative Offered World by Food Czars!

There is one cry heard thruout the world louder than all the rest. It is the food cry. The hideous and brutal reply by the masters of bread to that cry is, "Obey or Starve!"

That is what the world's imperialists allied in the league of nations are telling the masses of Soviet Russia. But the hungering millions of Russia, hemmed in by the murderous food blockade worse than a hundred thousand Lusitania horrors, cry back, "We'll starve on and struggle on to the final victory!"

Here in America the command of the masters is the same, "Obey or Starve!" The demand of the workers for increased wages to buy a little more of the necessities of life is met with the lockout; 100,000 building tradesmen thrown into the streets of Chicago being but a sample.

Negro workers are brought from the Southland to take the places of the locked out or striking white workers. Race feeling is inflamed! What care the masters? They profit by the bitter struggle of the white and black races for jobs. They and theirs are not touched as death and fire sweep working class sections of Washington, D. C., yes, even the nation's capital; of East St. Louis, Mo.; Springfield, Ill., creeping ever northward to Chicago, and most recently at Syracuse, N. Y. Thirty-five dead, hundreds injured, and many homes burned was Chicago's five-day-sacrifice to the gun, the dagger and the torch of the race war incidental to the greater class war.

"Food!" is today's world problem. The workers struggle for it, because they need it to keep alive. The profiteers seek control over it, because its possession is the high road to new riches and the foundation stone of their power.

Restless nations on the verge of establishing real working class republics are bribed with food to remain true yet a while longer to capitalism—Germany, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Serbia, Finland, Poland. Discontented toilers, here and everywhere, are given a little more of bread to lure them from their full demands.

In Italy the food question is the lever that totters a government on the edge of oblivion. Chambers of labor in an increasing number of Italian cities take over the food supply and cut prices in half.

In France, and other nations, it is the cry for food that tumbles over ministries. Everywhere, including the United States, it is the food cry that has sent the workers en masse in pursuit of higher wages, the only weapon they feel ready

at hand to battle increased food costs and the threat to their standard of living.

The struggle for food is rapidly becoming a world combat of robbed and plundered humanity against the greatest autocrats of all time—America's food kaisers.

The Federal Trade Commission reported to President Wilson that the "Big Five" meat packers (Armour, Swift, Morris, Wilson and Cudahy), will soon exercise a powerful domination not only over the nation's food supply but will also have an international control of meat products.

The commission points out that the packers are fast obtaining their domination by manufacturing or dealing in 775 commodities and gaining control of 762 other companies.

This great world power is being built up thru the use of every unlawful device available. The history of the packers' growth, says the Federal Trade Commission, is interwoven with illegal combinations, rebates, and with undisclosed control of corporations, popular methods of industrial warfare.

In the meat industry, the "Big Five" already constitutes a monopoly. In 1916 they slaughtered 82.2 per cent of all cattle; 86.4 per cent of all sheep; 76.6 per cent of all calves. Their average monthly holding of non-perishable meats, as compared with the country's total supply, are: Frozen beef, 95 per cent; smoked ham and bacon, 64 per cent; dry salt pork, 69.8 per cent; pickled pork, 70.5 per cent.

The packers handle half the poultry, eggs and cheese business of the country. In 1916 they sold 90,000,000 pounds of butter, 75,000,000 pounds of cheese, more than 135,000,000 dozens of eggs and 100,000,000 pounds of poultry. The "Big Five" own 90 per cent of all the refrigerator cars in the country. They control 54.7 per cent of the frozen and chilled beef exports from Argentina and Uruguay.

Just a few of the other commodities the Federal Trade Commission charges packers are gaining control of are breakfast foods, chicken feed, stock feed, fruit, canned vegetables, coal, fence posts, builders' hardware, binding twine, lumber, cement, lime, plaster, brick sand, gravel roofing, soda fountain supplies and rice.

Some of Swift & Co.'s subsidiaries are growing tropical fruits in Hawaii, a subsidiary of Wilson & Co. (Inc.) has reached into the salmon fisheries of Alaska and a Morris concern cans shrimps taken in the waters of the gulf of Mexico.

Concerning control of banking influence, the report (Continued on last page.)

Cost of Clothes Has Doubled, too

Something else has doubled in price besides the food you eat. The same thing has happened to the clothes you wear.

The National Industrial Conference Board compares the figures in March, 1919, with those in 1914. But we all know what has happened since March, altho the war has been over since last November, and we know that higher



prices have been promised for the months to come.

But this year's comparison with 1914 is bad enough, showing that the clothes a man bought for \$58.65 in 1914 now costs \$106.15 while a woman's budget for things to wear was \$58.15 in 1914 compared to \$101.80 this year. Talk this over with your wife and she will no doubt charge that these prices are altogether too conservative. Of course, it is very nice for the Industrial Conference board to point out that a \$10 suit is good enough for a working man, even in 1914, and that \$2 is plenty for

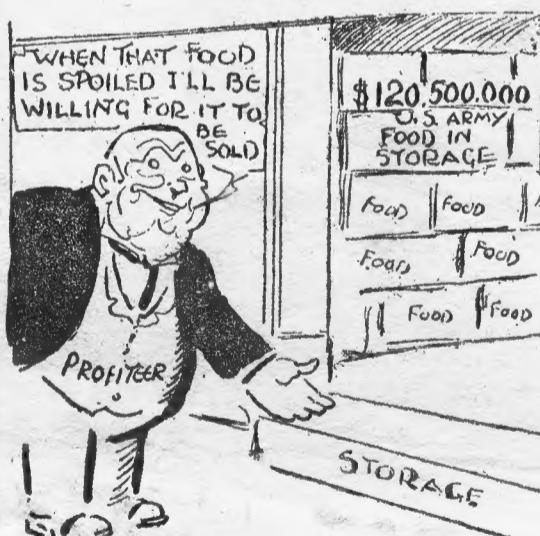
a hat for a wife! We offer the following prices for comparison only, not as an insult to the class that produces the best of everything and is forced to wear the cheapest. According to the Industrial Conference Board this is the man's budget:

Article	Cost in 1914	Cost in March 1919
Suit	\$15.00	\$26.00
Overcoat	10.00	18.50
Heavy trousers	3.50	6.00
Two shirts	2.00	3.25
Three work shirts	1.70	4.10
Three pairs overalls	2.25	5.55
Shoes and repairs	9.00	15.50
Eight pairs hose	1.20	2.00
Five sets underwear	3.50	7.00
Two nightshirts	1.50	2.60
Collars and ties	1.50	2.65
Hats, caps, gloves	5.00	8.50
Sundries	2.50	4.50
All articles	\$58.65	\$106.15

And this is the Board's "woman's budget":

Article	Cost in 1914	Cost in March 1919
Coat or suit	\$15.00	\$24.00
Woolen dress	5.00	9.50
Two cotton skirts	2.00	3.75
Woolen skirt	2.00	3.25
Four waists	4.00	6.20
Three aprons	.90	2.25
Two house-dresses	2.00	3.50
Shoes, overshoes, and repairs	6.65	13.00
Corsets	2.00	3.50
Six union suits	3.25	6.50
Muslin underwear	3.20	5.15
Three petticoats	1.75	3.00
Three nightgowns	2.40	3.85
Hats	2.00	3.60
Gloves	1.50	3.00
Sundries	3.00	5.00
All articles	\$58.15	\$101.80

Such are the present prices. What of the future? Such captains of industry as J. Odgen Armour, Julius Rosenwald,



Jacob H. Schiff, Otto H. Kahn and W. L. Douglas assure us that there will be no material decline in prices during the next few years. That is the best reason possible why the control of industry should be taken out of the hands of Armour, Rosenwald, Schiff, Kahn, Douglas & Co. What do you say?

Russian Appeal to the Workers of the World

He Will Try to End His Hunger

Seventy-two years have gone by since the Communist Party of the World proclaimed its program in the form of the Manifesto written by the greatest teachers of the proletarian revolution, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels.

Even at that early time, when Communism had scarcely come into the arena of conflict, it was hounded by the lies, hatred and calumny of the possessing classes, who rightly suspected in it their mortal enemy.

During these seven decades Communism has traveled a hard road: storms of ascent followed by periods of sharp decline; successes, but also severe defeats. In spite of all, the development at bottom went the way forecast by the Manifesto of the Communist Party. The epoch of the last decisive battle came later than the apostles of the social revolution expected and wished. But it has come.

We Communists, representatives of the revolutionary proletariat of the different countries of Europe, America and Asia, assembled in Soviet Moscow, feel and consider ourselves followers and fulfillers of the program proclaimed seventy-two years ago. It is our task now to sum up the practical revolutionary expense of the working class, to cleanse the movement of its admixtures of opportunism and social patriotism, and to gather together the forces of all the true revolutionary proletarian parties in order to further and hasten the complete victory of the Communist revolution.

I.

For a long span of years Socialism predicted the inevitability of the imperialistic war; it perceived the essential cause of this war in the insatiable greed of the possessing classes in both camps of capitalist nations.

Two years before the outbreak of the war, at the Congress of Basle, the responsible Socialist leaders of all countries branded Imperialism as the instigator of the coming war, and menaced the bourgeoisie with the threat of the Socialist revolution—the retaliation of the proletariat for the crimes of militarism. Now, after the experience of five years, after history has disclosed the predatory lust of Germany, and has unmasked the no less criminal deeds on the part of the Allies, the State Socialists of the Entente nations, together with their governments, again and again unmask the deposed German Kaiser. And the German social patriots, who in August, 1914, proclaimed the diplomatic White Book of the Hohenzollern as the holiest gospel of the people, today, in vulgar sycophancy, join themselves with the Socialists of the Entente lands to accuse as arch-criminal the deposed German monarchy which they formerly served as slaves. In this way they hope to erase the memory of their own guilt and thus gain the good will of the victors. But alongside the dethroned dynasties of the Romanoffs, Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs, and the capitalistic cliques of these lands, the rulers of France, England, Italy and the United States stand revealed in the light of unfolding events and diplomatic disclosures in their immeasurable vileness.

The contradictions of the capitalist system were converted by the war into beastly torments of hunger and cold, epidemics and moral savagery, for all mankind. Hereby also the academic quarrel in Socialism over the theory of *increasing misery*, and also of the undermining of Capitalism through Socialism, is now finally determined. Statisticians and teachers of the theory of reconciliation of these contradictions have endeavored for decades to gather together from all corners of the earth real and apparent facts which evidence the increasing well-being of the working class. Today abysmal misery is before our eyes, social as well as physiological, in all its shocking reality.

Finance-capital, which threw mankind into the abyss of war, has itself suffered catastrophic changes during the course of the war. The dependence of paper money upon the material basis of production was completely destroyed. More and more losing its significance as medium and regulator of capitalistic commodity circulation, paper money be-



But He Will Never Take the Halter

comes merely a means of exploitation, robbery, of military-economic oppression. The complete deterioration of paper money now reflects the general deadly crisis of capitalist commodity exchange.

As free competition was replaced as regulator of production and distribution in the chief domains of economy, during the decades which preceded the war, by the system of trusts and monopolies, so the exigencies of the war took the regulating role out of the hands of the monopolies and gave it directly to the military power. Distribution of raw materials, utilization of petroleum from Baku or Roumania, of coal from Donetz, of cereals from the Ukraine; the fate of German locomotives, railroad cars and automobiles, the provisioning of famine-stricken Europe with bread and meat—all these basic questions of the economic life of the world are no longer regulated by free competition, nor yet by combinations of national and international trusts, but through direct application of military force.

Just as complete subordination of the power of the State to the purposes of finance-capital led mankind to the imperialistic shambles, so finance-capital has, through this mass slaughter, completely militarized not only the State but also itself. It is no longer able to fulfill its essential economic functions otherwise than by means of blood and iron.

The absorption by the State of the economic life, so vigorously opposed by capitalist Liberalism, has now become a fact. There can be no return either to free competition nor to the rule of the trusts, syndicates and other economic monsters. The only question is who shall be the future mainstay of state production, the Imperialistic State or the State of the victorious proletariat. In other words, shall the entire working humanity become the feudal bond-servants of the victorious Entente bourgeoisie, which under name of a League of Nations aided by an "international" army and an "international" navy

here plunders and murders, there throws a crumb, but everywhere enchains the proletariat, with the single aim of maintaining its own rule? Or will the working class take into its own hands the disorganized and shattered economic life and make certain its reconstruction on a Socialist basis?

Only the Proletarian Dictatorship, which recognizes neither inherited privileges nor rights of property but which arises from the needs of the hungering masses, can shorten the period of the present crisis; and for this purpose it mobilizes all materials and forces, introduces the universal duty of labor, establishes the regime of industrial discipline, this way to heal in the course of a few years the open wounds caused by the war and also to raise humanity to a new undreamed of height.

The national State, which was given a tremendous impulse by capitalistic evolution has become too narrow for the development of the productive forces. And even more untenable has become the position of the small States, distributed among the great powers of Europe and in other parts of the world.

These small States came into existence at different times as fragments split off the bigger States, as petty currency in payment for services rendered, to serve as strategic buffer States. They, too, have their dynasties, their ruling gangs, their imperialistic pretensions, their diplomatic machinations. Their illusory independence had until the war precisely the same support as the European balance of power: namely, the continuous opposition between the two imperialistic camps. The war has destroyed this balance. The tremendous preponderance of power which the war gave to Germany in the beginning compelled these smaller nations to seek their welfare and safety under the wings of German militarism. After Germany was beaten the bourgeoisie of the small nations, together with their patriotic "Socialists," turned to the victorious Imperial-

ism of the Allies and began to seek assurance for their further independent existence in the hypocritical points of the Wilson program. At the same time the number of little States has increased; out of the unity of the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy, out of the different parts of the Czarist Empire, new sovereignties have formed themselves. And these, as soon as born, jump at each others' throats on account of their frontier disputes. Meanwhile the Allied Imperialists brought about certain combinations of new and old small States through the cement of mutual hatreds and general weakness. Even while violating the small and weak peoples and delivering them to famine and degradation, the Entente Imperialists, exactly as the Imperialists of the Central powers before them, did not cease to talk of the right of self-determination of all peoples, a right which is now entirely destroyed in Europe and in the rest of the world.

Only the proletarian revolution can secure the existence of the small nations, a revolution which frees the productive forces of all countries from the restrictions of the national States, which unites all peoples in the closest economic co-operation on the basis of a universal economic plan, and gives even to the smallest and weakest peoples the possibility freely and independently to carry on their national culture without detriment to the united and centralized economy of Europe and of the whole world.

The last war, after all a war against the colonies, was at the same time a war with the aid of the colonies. To an unprecedented extent the population of the colonies was drawn into the European war. Indians, Arabs, Madagascars battled on the European continent—what for?—for their right to remain slaves of England or France. Never did capitalistic power show itself more shameless, never the truth of colonial slavery brought in sharp relief. As a consequence we had a series of open rebellions and rev-

olutionary ferment in all colonies. In Europe itself it was Ireland which reminded us in bloody street battles that it is still an enslaved country and feels itself as such. In Madagascar, in Annam, and in other countries, the troops of the bourgeois Republic have had more than one insurrection of the colonial slaves to suppress during the war. In India the revolutionary movement has not been at a standstill for one day, and lately we have witnessed the greatest labor strike in Asia, to which the government of Great Britain answered with armored cars.

In this manner the colonial question in its entirety became the order of the day not alone on the green table of the diplomatic conferences at Paris, but also in the colonies themselves. The Wilson program, at the very best, calls only for a change in the firm name of colonial enslavement. Liberation of the colonies can only happen together with liberation of the working class of the capitalist states. The workers and peasants not only of Annam, Algeria, Bengal, but also of Persia and Armenia, can gain independent existence only after the laborers of England and France have overthrown Lloyd George and Clemenceau and taken the power into their own hands. Even now in the more advanced colonies the battle goes on not only under the flag of national liberation, but it assumes also an open and outspoken social character. Capitalistic Europe has drawn the backward countries by force into the capitalistic whirlpool, and Socialist Europe will come to the aid of the liberated colonies with its technique, its organization, its spiritual influence, in order to facilitate their transition to the orderly system of Socialist economy.

Colonial slaves of Africa and Asia! The hour of triumph of the Proletarian Dictatorship of Europe will also be the hour of your release!

II.

In those countries in which the historical development has furnished the opportunity, the working class has utilized the regime of political democracy for its organization against Capitalism. In all countries where the conditions for a workers' revolution are not yet ripe, the same process will go on. But the great middle layers on the farm lands, as well as in the cities, are hindered by Capitalism in their historic development and remain stagnant for whole epochs. The peasant of Bavaria and Baden who does not look beyond his church spire, the small French wine-grower who has been ruined by the adulterations practiced by the big capitalists, the small farmer of America plundered and betrayed by bankers and legislators—all these social ranks which have been shoved aside from the main road of development by Capitalism, are called on paper by the regime of political democracy to the administration of the State. In reality, however, the finance-oligarchy decides all important questions which determine the destinies of nations behind the back of parliamentary democracy. Particularly was this true of the war question of peace.

If the finance-oligarchy considers it advantageous to veil its deeds of violence behind parliamentary votes, then the bourgeois State has at its command in order to gain its ends all the traditions and attainments of former centuries of upper-class rule multiplied by the wonders of capitalistic technique: lies, demagogism, persecution, slander, bribery, calumny and terror.

To demand of the proletariat in the final life and death struggle with Capitalism that it should follow lamblike the demands of bourgeois democracy would be the same as to ask a man who is defending his life against robbers to follow the artificial rules of a French duel that have been set by his enemy but not followed by him.

In an empire of destruction, where not only the means of production and transportation but also the institutions of political democracy represent bloody ruins, the proletariat must create its own forms, to serve above all as a bond of unity for the working class and to enable it to accomplish a revolutionary intervention in the further development of mankind. Such apparatus is represented in the *workmen's councils*. The old parties, the old unions, have proved incapable, in person of their leaders, to understand, much less to

carry out the tasks which the new epoch presents to them. The proletariat created a new institution which embraces the entire working class, without distinction of vocation or political maturity, an elastic form of organization capable of continually renewing itself, expanding, and of drawing into itself ever new elements, ready to open its doors to the working groups of city and village which are near to the proletariat. This indispensable autonomous organization of the working class in the present struggle and in the future conquests of different lands, tests the proletariat and represents the greatest inspiration and the mightiest weapon of the proletariat of our time.

The collapse of the imperialistic State, characteristic to most democratic, goes on simultaneously with the collapse of the imperialistic military system. The armies of millions, mobilized by imperialism, could remain steadfast only so long as the proletariat remained obedient under the yoke of the bourgeoisie. The complete breakdown of national unity signifies also an inevitable disintegration of the army. Thus it happened, first in Russia, then in Austria-Hungary, then in Germany. The same also is to be expected in other imperialistic States. Insurrection of the peasant against the landowner, of laborer against capitalist, of both against the monarchic or "democratic" bureaucracy, must lead inevitably to the insurrection of soldier against commander and, furthermore, to a sharp division between the proletarian and bourgeois elements within the army. The imperialistic war which pitted nation against nation, has passed and is passing into the civil war which lines up class against class.

The outcry of the bourgeois world against the civil war and the red terror is the most colossal hypocrisy of which the history of political struggles can boast. There would be no civil war if the exploiters who have carried mankind to the very brink of ruin had not prevented every forward step of the laboring masses, if they had not instigated plots and murders and called to their aid armed help from outside to maintain or restore their predatory privileges. Civil war is forced upon the laboring classes by their arch-enemies.

Conscious of the world-historic character of their mission, the enlightened workers strove from the very beginning of the organized socialistic movement for an international union. The foundation-stone of this union was laid in the year 1864 in London, in the first International. The Franco-Prussian War, from which arose the Germany of the Hohenzollerns, undermined the First International, giving rise at the same time to the national labor parties. As early as 1889 these parties united at the Congress of Paris and organized the Second International. But during this period the center of gravity of the labor movement rested entirely on national ground, confining itself within the realm of national parliamentarism to the narrow compass of national states and national industries. Decades of organizing and labor reformism created a generation of leaders most of whom gave verbal recognition to the program of social revolution but denied it in substance. They were lost in the swamp of reformism and adaptation to the bourgeois state. The opportunistic character of the leading parties of the Second International was finally revealed—and led to the greatest collapse of the movement in all its history—when events required revolutionary methods of warfare from the labor parties. Just as the war of 1870 dealt a deathblow to the First International by revealing that there was not in fact behind the social-revolutionary program any compact power of the masses, so the war of 1914 killed the Second International by showing that above the consolidated labor masses there stood labor parties which converted themselves into servile organs of the bourgeois state.

Proletarians of all lands! In the war against imperialistic barbarity, against monarchy, against the privileged classes, against the bourgeois state and bourgeois property, against all forms and varieties of social and national oppression—UNITE!

Under the standard of the Workingmen's Councils, in the revolutionary struggle for power and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, proletarians of all countries, UNITE!

(Continued from first page.)

charges that "the big packers have secured affiliations thru stock ownership representation on directorates, and in other ways, with numerous banks and trust companies. Mr. Armour, Mr. Swift, Mr. Morris and Mr. Wilson are directors in banks affiliated closely with those who are strong at the sources of credit in the United States. Being thus allied with the powerful interests at the sources of credit, the packers' power is great, not only for financing their own national and international operations, but for affecting, for good or for ill, the credit of cattle producers and of competitors or customers in any line.

The packers' nationwide network of branch houses and "peddler car systems," built up in connection with their meat business, "assures them almost certain supremacy, in any line of food handling which they may wish to enter," the report says, asserting that sales in staple products have increased at such a rate that "in certain lines they have become factors of great moment."

"Armour's drive into the rice market in a single year is perhaps the most striking instance of their potentialities in this direction," says the commission. "Early in 1917 Armour & Co. first undertook the handling of rice and in that one year sold more than 16,000,000 pounds of rice, thus becoming, in a single move, on the statement of the vice president of the company, the greatest rice merchant in the world. During this period the wholesale price of rice increased 85 per cent."

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This great accumulation of economic power can never be turned to the public good. It is organized for but one purpose — the turning of a ceaseless flow of increased profits into the pockets of the few in control. The victims are the many millions of toiling and agonizing producers and consumers in the grip of this huge national and international octopus.

The food crisis thru which the nation is now passing shows how the "Big Five" profiteers will take advantage of every opportunity to augment their plunder.

The bureau of markets of the Department of Agriculture tells us that the packing interests are holding in cold storage 1,390,000,000 pounds of meat and products, and 46,000,000 pounds of poultry.

This huge supply must be disposed of at high prices. The food gamblers are therefore using every trick of the trade to prevent the United States government from disposing of vast stocks of food it has on its hands, now that the war is over and the army is being demobilized.

C. Willing Hare, director of sales of the War Department, admitted before an investigating committee of the house of representatives that the "business interests" wanted \$100,000,000 worth of canned goods in the possession of the government withheld from the market, and it was withheld; that Hoover's commission purchased 18,000,000 pounds of beef at a higher price for European relief, instead of drawing upon the government's stocks.

And all the time, these government stocks, great quantities of canned meats and vegetables are swelling and sweating and meat is spoiling in warehouses, and will be worthless within the next few months.

Why should the packers care? They have already made a huge profit thru the original sale to the government. Let the food spoil. That will reduce the supply and increase the opportunity for additional profits on the huge stocks they have on hand in their own cold storage houses. Could a greater crime be committed against the masses? The food gamblers damn the public with impunity because they know they can manipulate their puppets in Washington at will. During the war the packers publicly admitted that they were very much satisfied with Herbert Hoover, food administrator. Today these same packers are not worried by congressional investigations or threats of federal prosecutions.

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In this crisis the Socialist Party offers the only remedy. It invites all thinking men and women to join it in achieving the salvation of all labor. Profiteering must be abolished thru the socialization of all industry.

In Soviet Russia profiteering in food is a capital offense, the greatest conceivable crime against the community. French Socialists are seeking a similar punishment for the gambler in food. There is no danger of food profiteering being recognized as a crime in this country as long as the money oligarchy is in power in Washington and Wall Street.

Complete socialization of industry can only be achieved under a Socialist administration, supported by the nation's working men and women, struggling for the new order of society where there shall be no profits and no poverty, no surplus wealth and no degrading want.

This is the epoch in human endeavor that the workers in Europe are seeking to inaugurate thru the establishment of Socialist republics in various lands. The new day will also dawn here in the United States with the awakening of the working masses and the realization of their great strength when completely organized. Organize for the coming of Socialism and the liberation of all mankind.



Government Figures Show Cost of Food Doubled Since 1913

"Here is our price list. It's a little old, but multiply everything by two and you will get the right figure."

When the joke writer put those words into the mouth of a food merchant, he no doubt, thought he was coining something humorous.

The facts, however, show this joke to be so near the truth that it ceases to be funny.

"The Monthly Labor Review", just issued by the government at Washington, shows that the prices on all the food necessities on April 15, 1919, this year, were just about twice as high as on April 15, 1913, the year before the war started in Europe. The average increase for 19 ordinary household food items was 85 per cent.

Some food staples, like bacon, flour and potatoes, more than doubled in price; bacon going from 26.7 cents per pound to 57.2 cents; flour from 3.3 cents per pound to 7.2 cents; potatoes from 1.5 cents per pound to 3.1 cents. Lard was king of them all, however, going from 15.8 cents per pound to 35.3 cents, an increase of 123 per cent; while corn meal and ham just managed to double in price.

Let every working man and woman study the accompanying figures, taken from an official report of the United States government, and they will realize why the food profiteers are happy and why workers are compelled to struggle for increased wages to keep the wolf of want from their very thresholds.

It is these doubled food prices that pour hundreds of millions into the money boxes of the "Big Five" packing interests of Chicago, enabling them to extend their dominions over the food resources of all the lands of the earth.

The power to increase the cost of food at will is the key to their growing strength. These figures show how they do it:

Average Retail Prices in the United States and Per Cent of Increase, April 15, 1919, Compared with April 15, 1913.

Article and Unit.

	Average retail price Apr. 15—						
	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.
Sirloin steak, pound	25.4	25.4	25.1	27.0	31.7	36.6	43.7 + 72
Round steak, pound	22.3	23.0	23.3	24.0	28.9	34.5	40.5 + 82
Rib Roast, pound	19.9	20.1	19.7	21.0	25.2	29.3	34.6 + 74
Chuck roast, pound	16.2	17.0	16.0	21.2	21.2	25.5	29.4 + 81
Plate beef, pound	12.2	12.4	12.2	12.8	16.1	19.9	22.6 + 85
Pork chops, pound	21.6	21.6	19.7	22.5	30.6	35.6	41.4 + 92
Bacon, pound	26.7	26.7	26.4	28.1	38.2	49.5	57.2 + 114
Ham, pound	26.5	26.8	25.3	31.2	36.5	44.6	52.9 + 100
Lamb, pound	20.2	19.3	21.0	23.0	27.6	35.3	39.9 + 98
Hens, pound	22.2	23.0	21.3	23.7	29.1	43.0	49.4 + 94
Salmon, canned				19.8	20.0	23.6	29.5
Milk, fresh, quart	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.8	10.2	13.2	15.0 + 70
Butter, pound	40.6	32.7	35.9	41.4	50.8	50.7	71.3 + 76
Cheese, pound			23.2	24.8	33.0	34.1	41.9
Lard, pound	15.8	15.6	15.1	18.7	26.4	33.1	35.3 + 123
Eggs, strictly fresh, dozen	25.1	25.5	25.9	27.4	38.6	42.5	49.3 + 96
Bread, pound	5.6	6.2	7.1	7.0	8.4	9.7	9.8 + 75
Flour, pound	3.3	3.3	4.5	3.9	6.7	6.6	7.2 + 118
Corn meal, pound	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.3	4.7	7.1	6.0 + 100
Rice, pound			9.1	9.1	9.5	12.1	13.4
Beans, navy, pound			7.7	9.4	16.7	18.0	12.1
Potatoes, pound	1.5	1.8	1.5	2.4	5.9	2.2	3.1 + 107
Onions, pound			3.6	4.8	13.4	3.3	6.9
Sugar, granulated, pound	5.4	5.0	6.6	7.9	9.6	9.1	10.6 + 96
Tea, pound			54.6	54.6	55.1	63.9	69.7
Coffee, pound			29.9	29.9	29.9	30.1	38.5
Prunes, pound	13.7	13.3	14.5	14.5	16.6	21.9
Raisins, pound			12.5	12.6	14.2	15.1	16.3
All articles combined							+ 85
*Percent of increase (+) Apr. 15, 1919, compared with Apr. 15, 1913.							

We have had food prices back in 1890 brought to our attention showing that round steak at that time sold for 15.3 cents compared to 40.5 cents today; when pork chops could be had for 10.7 cents compared to 41.4 cents now; when bacon sold for 12.2 cents about one-fifth of the 57.2 cents charged today; when ham was 5.6 cents instead of 52.9 cents, nearly ten times as much, charged this year; when hens could be bought for 15.4 cents per pound compared to 43 cents now; when eggs were 24.4 cents a dozen instead of 49.3 cents as now; when butter was 26.8 cents a pound instead of 71.3 cents; when milk could be had for the baby for 6.4 cents per quart while now we pay 15 cents; when corn meal could be bought for 2.1 cents per pound instead of six cents, and sugar could be had for 6.7 cents instead of the 10.6 cents we pay now.

Against these huge increases in food costs the worker is forced to be content with a few pennies an hour increase in wages. And when he does secure a slight increase, the exploiter doubles the increase in raising the price of the workers product, thus making it profitable for him to grant the worker increased wages. These are the crimes committed under private ownership. Labor's emancipation will come with the abolition of private property.

What Are You Going to Do About It?

Spread the Light! This Leaflet Will Help!

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